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A SHORT SKETCH  
OF  
RAJAH RAJENDRO-MULICK BAHADUR  
AND  
HIS FAMILY

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OF  
Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur  
AND  
His Family

BY  
Dinabandhu Chatterjee.



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**A SHORT SKETCH**  
**OF**  
**Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur**  
**AND**  
**His Family.**

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FRONT VIEW OF THE MARBLE PALACE.



## PREFACE.

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**A**N attempt has been made in the following pages to present to the public a plain and unvarnished account of one of the oldest and most respected families in Calcutta, remarkable alike for its glorious traditions in the past and its many-sided activities in the present. A brief history of such a family cannot fail to possess a permanent interest for future generations of the people of Bengal. There is hardly a family of any importance in any part of the world, the records whereof, if faithfully preserved, would not tend to serve a useful purpose. Founders of families, which leave an abiding mark in the annals of the human race, cannot but have been endowed with some of the noblest attributes of their race. They leave behind them great examples, by sedulously following which, others of their species are inspired with a laudable ambition to carve out their destiny here below in a befitting manner.

The particular family, which forms the subject-matter of this brief narrative, has had a great past, and may well look forward to a bright future, so long, at least, as it faithfully keeps alive the lofty traditions of its distinguished scions, whose names, to use the felicitous language of one of the great Elizabethan masters, "still carry a perfume in their mention." The history of this aristocratic family not only dates back to a remote antiquity, but is intimately bound up with the growth and prosperity of the great and magnificent city of which we are all proud to be good and peaceful citizens. It may be asserted without fear of contradiction, that no name had a greater vogue than that of the late Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur in the history of Calcutta, both past and present. The great nobleman was, in his life time, perhaps, the most distinguished and honoured member of Calcutta Society, by reason of his extensive liberality, his unassuming simplicity, his genuine modesty, and, above all, his great piety. His sons and grandsons have all, in their time, done their best to tread in the foot-steps of their worthy ancestors. Their family residence is still regarded as the finest of its kind in this our City of Palaces ; and no visitor to Calcutta, but

snatches an opportunity of feasting his eyes upon the superb splendour of the gorgeous palace of the Mullicks, stocked with a fairly inexhaustible collection of some of the choicest treasures of the sister arts of Painting and Sculpture.

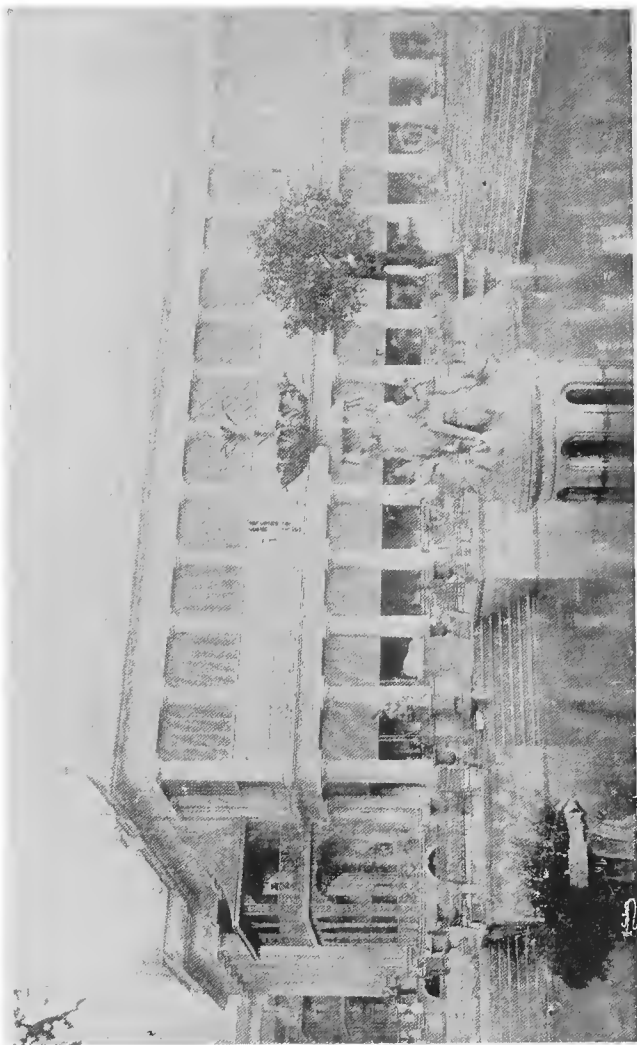
From our short sketch of the family history of the Mullicks, it will be abundantly clear to our readers that at the bottom of all human greatness lies that great asset, to wit, Virtue, understood in its widest acceptation. The well-known Sanskrit adage,—**धर्मः रक्षति रक्षितः**,—“Virtue protects, being protected,” is amply illustrated by the unfailing prosperity which has attended the family from its first foundation up to the present day. May the members of the family still cling to the path of Virtue, and we can confidently prophesy that its prosperity will be assured for many a long year to come. Should our readers rise from a perusal of this booklet impressed with the great truth that Virtue is man's chief friend in his journey through life, our humble efforts will not have been altogether in vain. We need hardly say, we are well aware of the many short-comings of this booklet, but still we venture to send it into the world with all its imperfections on its head, in the humble hope that it may

set our countrymen a-thinking, and convince them of the final triumph of Virtue in all the multifarious walks of human life.

CALCUTTA,  
14th July, 1916. }

D. CHATTERJEE.

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THE WESTERN VIEW OF THE MARBLE PALACE





A SHORT SKETCH  
OF  
**Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur**  
AND  
**His Family.**

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CHAPTER I.

**T**HE history of the aristocratic Mullick family of Chorebagan dates back to a remote antiquity. For a long series of generations its members have invariably been noted for their princely benefactions, their unobtrusive acts of piety, their manifold activities in various walks of life, and, above all, for their genuine and deep-seated loyalty to the Government established by Law. The Mullick family is one of the oldest, as it certainly is, one of the foremost in the annals of Bengal aristocracy, and is among the

few, the very few, whose title to honour and distinction goes back to the brilliant days of the Great Mogul. Sprung from the Subarna Banik Caste or the Banker Caste of Bengal, whose profession by immemorial custom is confined to banking and mercantile business, the Mullicks, have been renowned for their wealth, enterprise and munificence from time immemorial. So great has been the weight of their social position, that they have always been recognised as the *Dalopaties* or the head of a large number of families of their own caste, and, besides, they are Pramanicks, one of the three principal kulin families of their caste. The patronymic of the family is "Seal," but since Jadav Seal, their head in the 13th generation, was honoured by the Muhammedan Government with the hereditary title of Mullick\* the family has reserved the name of 'Seal' for use only in religious and matrimonial ceremonies and have assumed the title of Mullick as their surname.

The nomenclature of Subarna Banik given to this caste originated as follows :—

Sanak Adhya, a Baisya, who, besides his piety, general bearing, and deep knowledge of the

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\* Mullick in Persian means a king, an amir or nobleman. This title of honour was given to noblemen by the Muhammedan kings.

Vedas, was the master of great wealth, migrated from Ramgarh in Ajodhya (Oudh) many centuries ago, to the court of Adisur, the then King of Bengal. The King was so charmed with anything about this pilgrim-merchant that he granted him a village on the banks of the Bramhaputra, where he settled with his family and his priests Gyan Chunder Misra. Sanak Adhya's very extensive mercantile operations soon converted this obscure spot into a great commercial mart, which, though now in ruins, still bears the name of Subarnagram or Sonargaon, that is, the golden village, so called in honour of the gold merchant, who lived and carried on his trade there. Adisur was so much pleased with the good effects of his gift that he presented Sanak Adhya with a copper plate bearing the following inscription :—

“স্বর্ণ বাণিজ্য কারিত্বাদব্রহ্মিত বিশাং ময়া ।

সুবর্ণনিগিত্যাখ্য দত্তা সম্মান বর্দ্ধয়ে ॥”

which may be thus done into English “In order to increase the honour of the Baisyas of this place, who are engaged in gold trade I have given them the designation of Subarna Banik” (See Ballal Charita of Ananda Bhatta). For a very long time, the Subarna Baniks, continued to enjoy the royal favour, but, during the reign of King Ballal Sen, a misunderstanding arose bet-

ween that monarch and Ballavananda Adhya, a descendant of Sanak Adhya, and the head of the caste at the time. Ballavananda was the richest man in the kingdom and according to the biographer of Ballal sen, possessed 140 millions of gold mohurs. The question of the repayment of the large advances he had made during the Manipur War led to differences which being intensified by other causes, the king in revenge deprived the Subarna Baniks of the privilege of wearing the sacred thread, which they had all along been entitled to wear by their right as Baisyas, the third order of the Dwija or twice-born, according to the Institutes of Manu.

Writing on this particular subject, Talboys Wheeler, the great historian of India, says:—  
 “Notwithstanding, however, the attempt of the Raja Ballal to lower the Banyas in national esteem, their opulence and enterprise have always maintained the respectability and dignity of the class and a mercantile aristocracy has arisen among them which has held the purse-strings of the nation and of whom the rich family of the Mullicks of the present day are a favourable example. Many of the Banyas may be traced as having gradually migrated in bygone

generations from Gour through Murshidabad, Birbhum, and Burdwan and finally settled at Satgong\* in the District of Hughli. It is this latter class of adventurous Banyas who chiefly carried on mercantile transactions in the sixteenth century with the Portugeese of Hughli and in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with the Dutch of Chinsurah, the French of Chander nagore, and the English of Calcutta. From this circumstance it is said, that the Banyas first imbibed a tincture of European refinement and delicacy towards females which until late years was little appreciated by the rest of the countrymen."

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\* Satgong is the popular name of Saptagram and a section of the Banya community is still called Saptagramia Subarna-Banik.

## CHAPTER II.

**A** Genealogical table of the Chorebagan Mullick family, which is extant and traces their descent through 23 generations is given below :—

1st generation on record	}	Mathu Seal	
2nd	„	...	Gaja Seal and 11 brothers
3rd	„	...	Shumair Seal and 2 brothers
4th	„	...	Barone Seal
5th	„	...	Bajo Seal
6th	„	...	Tej Seal
7th	„	...	Prayag Seal
8th	„	...	Nagore Seal

9th	„	... Nityanando Seal and 2 brothers
10th	„	... Narayan Seal
11th	„	... Madan Seal and 6 brothers
12th	„	... Banomali Seal
13th	„	... Jadav Seal and 2 brothers (Jadav Seal received the title of Mullick)
14th	„	... Kanaram Mullick and 4 brothers
15th	„	... Jayram Mullick and 3 brothers
16th	„	Padmalochan Mullick & 5 brothers
17th	„	... Sham Sunder Mullick
18th	„	Ganga Bishnu Mullick & 1 brother
19th	„	... Nilmani Mullick
20th	„	Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur

21st Devendro Mullick Mohendro Mullick Girindro Mullick Surendro Mullick Jogeandro Mullick Manindro Mullick

22nd Kumar Mullick Nogendro Mullick Kumar Brojendro Mullick Kumar Ganendro Mullick

23rd Kumar Mullick Jitendro Mullick Kumar Dineendro Mullick Kumar Gopendro Mullick

But from their family archives it appears that their earliest known ancestors had originally settled somewhere on the banks of the Subarna-  
rekha, then at Saptagram, afterwards at Hughli  
and Chinsurah, (the sites of their residences at  
these two places being still traceable) and finally  
at Calcutta. It is said that Babu Jayram Mullick  
(15th generation) first came and settled at Cal-  
cutta before the establishment of British rule,  
in order to avoid spoliation by the Burgies, the  
name by which the Mahratta pirates of those  
days were popularly known in Bengal. It is  
also said that he first settled at Govindapur, the  
southern part of Calcutta. This village was  
subsequently acquired by the British Government  
for construction of Fort William, Calcutta, a  
portion of land being allotted to Babu Jayram  
Mullick at Pathuriaghata for his dwellings.  
Though no written account regarding the career  
of Babu Jayram Mullick, of his ancestors, of his  
fourth son Padma Lochan Mullick from whom



the present Mullick family of Chorebagan is directly descended or of his grandson Sham Sundar Mullick is now forthcoming, it is fair to infer from the reputation they left behind that they had so lived and conducted their business as to have preserved the good name and honour of their forefathers and set a good example worthy of imitation by their progeny. But the authentic history of the family begins with Babu Ganga Bishnu Mullick, the son of Babu Sham Sundar Mullick. He resided with his brother Babu Ramkrishna Mullick in the family dwelling-house at Pathuriaghata, Calcutta, where he carried on not only an extensive banking business but also engaged in mercantile transactions on a large scale both in Bengal and the North-western Provinces, as well as, in China, Singapur and other foreign parts. In his private life, Babu Ganga Bishnu Mullick was also very estimable and exemplary. Besides maintaining a good many relatives as well as dependants of his own and other castes with uncommon liberality, he also distributed food daily in his Dharmasala opposite his dwelling-house to a large number of poor people, but what is more, he helped many friends on in the world by assisting them with money to carry on trade or by becoming their

securities for the discharge of duties of lucrative or responsible posts. But his benevolence did not end there. With a liberality, not always to be met with, he kept in his employment a staff of learned native physicians to prepare medicines for free distribution to the ailing poor at a time, when European dispensaries were not in existence. During the terrible famine of 1176 B.S. or A.D. 1770 he relieved a large number of his starving fellow countrymen flocked into the city, by establishing and maintaining at his as well as of his brother's entire cost 8 Anna Chattras for the gratuitous distribution of prepared food without distinction of caste or creed to all poor people, who resorted thither. These temporary Alms Houses in the native part of the town were mostly in the houses of his friends, who gladly joined in the good work,—other similar institutions for the relief of the starving poor having been opened in the southern part of the city and supported from other resources. But his charities were not simply local. At Birndaban a Chattrar was established by him where the rites and ceremonies of the Hindu religion were celebrated with much pomp and a large number of the poor were fed daily. As I have said, a great

many families of the Subarna Banik caste recognised him as their head or Dalapati resorted to him for arbitration in their disputes and performed their matrimonial or other rites under his guidance and directions.

Babu Ganga Bishnu Mullick died on the 7th February 1788 A. D. leaving an only son Babu Nilmoni Mullick.

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### CHAPTER III.

**B**ABU Nilmoni Mullick was born on the 10th September 1775 A.D. He resided jointly with his cousins, the sons of his uncle in the family dwelling-house at Pathuria-ghata. The management of the family affairs devolved upon him and one of the said cousins. Both of them continued to maintain the most cordial feelings among the several members of the household and added honour and distinction to their names.

Babu Nilmoni Mullick was a very pious and God-fearing man, a pattern of gentlemanliness, extremely noble-hearted and forgiving, sympathising in the sufferings of his fellow creatures and rejoicing in their prosperity, the poor and helpless always found in him a ready friend. Babu Nilmoni Mullick was a man widely known for his charity and hospitality and was a leading man of his time. His constant injunction to his house-hold was "Let no hungryman be refused

hospitality, give him my own food if you cannot help him with anything else." Of the many acts of charity and benevolence, that adorned his life and which have marked him out as a memorable personage I would mention here a few instances. He built and consecrated the Thakurbati of Jagarnathji at Chorebagan, the worship of which he inherited from his maternal uncles. He established an Atithsala or Alms House attached to this, where, by the grace of God a large number of the poor and helpless of every caste and creed daily receive prepared food up to this day. During the nine days of the festival of Rathajatra (car festival) every year Babu Nilmoni Mullick used to invite and entertain in this Thakurbati gentlemen of all the different sections of the Baniya community. A large number of Brahmins and a vast number of paupers also received hospitality. His pilgrimages to Puri were marked with great liberality. On one occasion finding a large number of poor families in great distress, from the loss of their homesteads through a conflagration in the neighbourhood of Gourbarshahi and Harachandishahi, Puri, he helped them with money to rebuild their cottages and saved them from the inclemencies of a rainy weather. On another

occasion when distress was raging amongst a very large number of poor pilgrims assembled at Atharnala or Eighteen Bridges where a toll used to be levied in those days he arranged with the local authorities for their free ingress and egress by undertaking himself to pay on their behalf. But as the amount he had thus to pay was considerably much more than he had thought of keeping along with him for his journey, he was therefore forced to ask the Collector to accept a draft for the sum on his cousin Babu Baistub Das Mullick at Calcutta. The Government was much pleased to see this voluntary offer of an enormous amount on the part of Babu Nilmani Mullick for the benefit of poor pilgrims and immediately stopped the toll being levied but at the same time exempted him from paying the amount so offered. Babu Nilmani Mullick built a costly Natmandir to the temple of Jagarnathji at Dantan. He several times procured the release of civil prisoners from jail by paying over the amounts of their debts, before the act for the relief of insolvent debtors was extended to this country. In those days, a large number of poor and religious devotees used to resort to Calcutta. For the convenience of these devotees he built sheds at

the Ghat which was called Nilmani Mullick's Ghat after his name and stood on the piece of land now occupied by the Paun Postah Bazar belonging to his son. This ghat was commodious and built of masonry and had separate bathing accommodations for males and females. It became useless since the construction of the old Strand Road and banks. These pilgrims not only found shelter here, but were taken care of and provided with food and clothes. In the family dwelling house at Pathuriaghata Babu Nilmani Mullick and his cousin Babu Baistab Das Mullick jointly maintained on a very liberal scale a *Sadabrata* or Alms House where a large number of poor and hungry pilgrims and mendicants coming there at any hours of the day, received whatever raw articles of food they wanted. They were provided with cooking stalls, at a quadrangle in the front of the house, specially reserved for this purpose since the time of their ancestors, and with every requisite ingredient for the preparation of food. Poor people unable to meet the expenses of the funeral rites of their dead relatives, always found ready assistance from Babu Nilmani Mullick and the numbers who sought such help were not inconsiderable. Babu Nilmani Mullick distributed

medicines prepared by accomplished and qualified native physicians to the ailing poor and kept up with great liberality all the family rites and ceremonies instituted by his ancestors. Noblemen and Government Officials of the highest rank were invited and several Governor-Generals and Judges of the Old Supreme Court graced the annual festivities with their presence on different occasions. For the entertainment of the gentlemen and friends of all nationalities, Europeans and natives, Babu Nilmani Mullick used to engage musicians and dancers of the highest repute and reward them with presents. Babu Nilmani Mullick had a particular taste for music and liberally encouraged professors of that delightful art. On the occasion of *Sripanchami* every year, he held a *Maiphel* in which musicians exhibited their relative talents and received liberal rewards. Babu Nilmani Mullick introduced the reformed system of *Full-Akrai* singing accompanied with musical concerts. The intonations were of a very high and perfect order and of scientific precision. This sort of singing, has for want of competent masters become extinct for nearly half a century and has given place to the less clever form of *Half-Akrai* singing. Babu Nilmani Mullick's



efforts in this direction have been casually mentioned in the life of Ram Nidhi Gupta more popularly known as Nidhu Babu, the celebrated professor of music. Babu Nilmani Mullick was universally respected by the community of his time. Amongst whom not a few experienced his goodness and friendship in various substantial ways, in pecuniary accommodations which saved many estates from sale for default in payment of Government revenue or in some such critical situation, in money advances to help friends in business, in the guarantees he furnished for the faithful discharge of the duties of profitable appointments, in the arbitration of disputes and in assistance given in every way that lay in his power.

The descendants of many near relatives and dependents up to this day enjoy the benefits of the help formerly rendered and remember them with gratitude. As Dalapati Babu Nilmani Mullick introduced several reforms amongst his kinsmen and saved many from excommunication of caste or other social degradation. What added glory to these good deeds, was the unostentatious manner in which they were done and the humility that pervaded his mind.

Babu Nilmani Mullick's father had one brother named Babu Ram Krishna Mullick who had two sons named Baistab Das Mullick and Sonatan Mullick. The ancestral properties of Babu Nilmani Mullick are according to the Hindu Laws divisible into two equal parts *i.e.*, one half being his own and the other half going to his two cousins. As Babu Nilmani Mullick had an adopted son only his cousins entreated him to divide their ancestral properties into three equal parts. Babu Nilmani Mullick most gladly assented to this proposal though he was properly speaking the legal heir of half of his ancestral properties. Accordingly he made a Will, on the eve of his death in which he allotted one third of his ancestral properties to his son. This is another striking example of Babu Nilmani Mullick's magnanimous heart.

Babu Nilmani Mullick died on the 2nd September, 1821 leaving a widow and an only son (adopted) Babu Rajendro Mullick then an infant of 3 years. A few hours before his death Babu Nilmani Mullick ordered his servants to carry him in a chair to the family Thakurbati and there after performing his prayers and devotions, requested them to carry him to his Ghat on the banks of the holy river Ganges chanting

a particular hymn which he himself recited. He took two bags full of silver coins (only rupees) with him which he distributed with his own hand to the poor passers-by on his way to the Ghat as well as to the paupers who assembled at the Ghat. He quietly bid farewell to his friends and relatives assembled there, and asked for their pardon for any fault, he might have committed in his life. On their shedding tears he begged of them not to excite his emotion. He had his senses all along and uttered the names of various Hindu gods and goddesses even to the last moment of his life.

Such was the renown and fame of Babu Nilmani Mullick's liberality, that devotees reaching Calcutta 20 or 30 years after his death, and on coming to his family house for relief used sometimes to exclaim "Nilmani Mullick-keejoy." Speaking of him, the Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, incidentally mentioned in a letter addressed to his son, Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur dated the 6th February, 1874, about 53 years after his death "The Lieutenant Governor desires me to say, that he is well aware of the good services done by your father in helping the poor and destitute."

## CHAPTER IV.

A short time after the death of Babu Nilmani Mullick a suit for partition was instituted in the year 1822 between Babu Baistab Das Mullick and the widow of Babu Nilmani Mullick as the guardian of her infant son Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur, who was then about 4 years of age. The mother and the infant son removed from the old family house at Pathuriaghata to the residence attached to the Thakurbati in Chorebagan, built by Babu Nilmani Mullick, where they remained until the minor came of age. For the greater part of this period the noble widow experienced the greatest difficulties in conducting the charitable and religious works of the Thakurbati of her late husband, as for a length of time no expenses for maintaining them could be obtained from the Court of Wards who held charge of the Estate. During this period she nobly strove to keep the charities agoing to her utmost power, by pledging or parting with

her own estates through which she raised the necessary funds. Her generosity and kindness were exemplary. To the household dependents her sympathy was truly mother-like, several of whom received through her bounty *pucca* houses in this City for the peaceful enjoyment of themselves and their children. She took a delight in working with her own hands for the poor and hungry resorting to the Thakurbati for relief. She used to assist in cooking their food, and would not herself eat until all the hungry waiting at her doors had been satisfied.

After the demise of her husband the intelligent and pious lady showed her devotion to duty by undertaking to bring her boy up in all the sentiments of honour, virtue and decorum, proper to one, who, would soon know himself to be the heir to a great estate. In accomplishing her object she had to confront hardships and untoward circumstances brought about by some of her kinsmen and even to risk her own life. It is through her and only her patience and diligence alone that the boy Rajendro had been able to rise to importance. Such rare abilities as she displayed are truly worthy of being striven after by all of her sex. Babu Rajendro though he became fatherless in his very childhood was quite

able to achieve every success in his life only on account of the training which he had received from such a worthy mother of her stamp. It is therefore beyond all doubt that the virtues and qualities which this noble lady possessed are worthy of being emulated by all our Hindu females and it is not much to mention that she was an exemplary woman of her time. Leaving her son well-settled in life, this noble lady died at the ripe old age of 92 years with the entire satisfaction and peace of mind seeing that all her efforts towards the improvement and ultimate prosperity of the boy had become successful.

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## CHAPTER V.

**R**AJAH Rajendro Mullick Bahadur was born on the 24th June, 1819. During the minority of the Rajah the late Supreme Court had appointed Mr. James Weir Hogg (afterwards Sir James Hogg, Barronet) as his guardian, who took great care and interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Rajah. The gentleman very often used to see the boy Rajendro in his place and one day he presented the boy with some birds and it was he, who created in the Rajah an interest for taming birds and animals which resulted in the establishment of a menagerie in the house of the Rajah.

Rajah Rajendro Mullick was admitted into the Hindn College where he received a good grounding in both English and Bengali. From his boyhood he was charitably disposed, and many instances of his kindness of heart were narrated by his class mates. He was by disposition extremely courteous, kind and liberal. Rajah Rajendro

Mullick Bahadur commenced constructing the grand Marble Palace at Chorebagan when he was 16 years old and finished the same in course of five years. The Marble Palace is not only a specimen of the higher order of Oriental Architecture and Engineering, but a sufficient proof of his great skill and talents in these arts. He had an inborn taste for the study of natural history and fine arts, and soon became an excellent judge of pictures and all works of art, both Western and Oriental, of which the immense collections of pictures, statues and other works of art to be found in his Marble Palace gives abundant evidence. He had considerable musical ability, and composed many religious hymns and songs set to Hindu *raghs* and *raginees* which even yet are occasionally sung in his Thakurbati. On attaining his majority and coming into full possession of his Estate, Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur carried on the charitable work instituted by his father in the most liberal manner. The poor and helpless always found in him a ready friend, and he had scarcely an enemy in the country. Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur was a rigid Hindu, and, as a rule, would not take a drop of water before saying his daily prayers in the Thakurbati. He daily fed—and the prac-





RAJA RAJENDRO MULLICK BAHADUR.



tice is still continued by his descendants—500 to 600 poor people with cooked food prepared in his Thakurbati, without distinction of caste or creed. On religious occasions, and in times of famine or other emergencies, there was no limit to this laudable dole, as whoever came was not disappointed. During the famine of 1865—66 he fed 5000 to 6000 paupers daily with cooked food in his house at Chorebagan and in recognition of this unexampled munificence the Government of India was pleased to notice his acts in the Calcutta Gazette of the 23rd January 1867 under the heading of "The munificence of Babu Rajendro Mullick" and to confer on him the title of "Rai Bahadur". The following is extracted from the Gazette.

"From J. Geoghegan Esq., (officiating Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal), to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, (No. 4465 dated 9th November 1866).

"I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to request that you will be so good as to report in detail the extent of the acts of public beneficence and charity of Babu Rajendro Lal Mullick."

*"No. 1590 dated the 30th November 1866.*

*From S. Hogg Esq.,*

*Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.*

*To the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,  
Political Department."*

" 1. In reply to your letter No. 4465 of 9th Instant, I have the honour to report that Babu Rajendro Mullick, is daily in the habit of distributing food to a large number of destitute persons."

" 2. In June last, when the famine stricken paupers commenced flocking into the streets of Calcutta, Babu Rajendro Mullick at once organised arrangements on the most liberal and efficient scale for distributing food to all deserving persons who presented themselves before his house. The example thus set by Babu Rajendro Mullick, was, it is true, quickly followed by many others, but I think it will be admitted that the gentleman who first inaugurated the lavish private relief measures, which existed in Calcutta for several months should be singled out as deserving of special notice."

" 3. On the 30th August last, the Executive Famine Relief Committee became impressed with the necessity of adopting measures with a view to clearing Calcutta of the paupers, who were to be found in crowds throughout the north-

ern portion of the town, as it was feared that if this could not be effected some epidemic might break out. In giving effect to this resolution, the first step was to persuade the managers of numerous charities either to bring their relief measures to a conclusion, or else to remove to Chitpur and to work in Co-operation with the Relief Committee. With a view to assist the Committee, Babu Rajendro Mullick immediately came forward and agreed to cease distributing food to the famine-stricken paupers within the town and in lieu thereof to place Rs. 100 per day at the disposal of the committee for the purpose of feeding 1000 paupers at Chitpur."

"4. By the support thus afforded by the Babu the Committee were enabled to carry out their object without causing much dis-satisfaction amongst the Native Community. Had the Babu not come forward, I doubt much whether it would have been possible for the Committee to have been successful in effectually removing the paupers from the Streets of Calcutta."

"5. When hospital accommodation was required by the Committee Babu Rajendro Mullick placed at their disposal several valuable *Godowns* in Colootola, only just built, and valued at a monthly rental of Rs. 1,600 and also the premises and land

lately known as the Tivoli Gardens. The Godowns the Committee did not avail themselves of, as they are situated in a too crowded part of the town, but the latter premises are still in possession of the Committee and are used as a Foundling Asylum.

"6. As there is no doubt that when all the relief operations in Calcutta are closed the committee will have some 3000 orphans on their hands, Babu Rajendro Mullick has generously promised to guarantee, in perpetuity, a monthly subscription of Rs. 100 in aid of any Foundling Asylum established."

"7. It will thus be observed that Babu Rajendro Mullick has throughout the crisis nobly exerted himself to relieve the distress, and has done all in his power to assist the Committee, and it affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the services he has rendered, and to commend the Babu to the special notice of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor."

*"No. 4889 dated the 11th December 1866.*

From the Hon'ble A. Eden

*Secretary to the Government of Bengal."*

"To the Secretary to the Government of India,  
*Home Department."*

"I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to submit for the consideration and orders of the

Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council, copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Police of Calcutta (No. 1590, dated 30th November, 1866) commending to the special notice of the Government the conduct and services of Babu Rajendro Lal Mullick in relieving the distress lately prevailing in Calcutta, and in supporting the sufferers who have resorted to the city from the famine-stricken districts."

"2. The Lieutenant Governor has received Mr. Hogg's account of this eminent native gentleman's voluntary exertions and sacrifices in the cause of humanity with the liveliest satisfaction, and feeling confident that such conduct will be highly appreciated by His Excellency in Council, desires me to commend Babu Rajendro Mullick for some special mark of His Excellency's favour, as a suitable acknowledgment of his enlightened and munificent charity."

*"No. 10, dated the 31st January, 1867."*

"From the Offg. Under Secretary,  
to the Government of India,  
*Foreign Department."*

"To the Offg. Junior Secretary,  
to the Government of Bengal."

"Your letter No. 4889, dated the 11th December, to the address of the Secretary in the Home

Department, having been laid before the Governor-General in Council, His Excellency has been pleased to confer upon Babu Rajendro Mullick the title of "Rai Bahadur" in recognition of the munificence he has displayed in the relief of the sufferers from the late famine."

"2. I am directed to forward the accompanying *Sanad* for transmission to that gentleman."

"The Hon'ble A. Eden, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, through the Commissioner of Police (Sir Stuart Hogg) requested that the thanks of the Government may be conveyed to each of the members of the Executive Committee of the Bengal and Orissa Famine Relief Fund, and specially to Babu Rajendro Mullick, for the timely adoption of measures for the relief of the poor of Calcutta and its vicinity (as per copy of a letter No. 3413 dated 28th December 1866, forwarded to him)."

It is generally said, that at this time of extreme distress Babu Rajendro Mullick first opened *Anna Chatras* or Alms Houses at Chorebagan and Chitpore for the free distribution of alms as also cooked food to the famine-stricken people on a very large scale. In recognition of this daily charity and liberality of Babu Rajen-



dro Mullick the Viceroy and Governor-General of India presented him with a certificate of honour, at the Durbar held at Calcutta, on the 1st January, 1877, on account of the assumption of the title "Empress of India" by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Victoria.

The title of "Raja Bahadur" was also conferred on Babu Rajendro Mullick by His Excellency Lord Lytton, Viceroy and Governor-General, on the 1st January, 1878, with a *sanad* and *khilat* consisting of a large sized diamond ring, with the inscription "Presented to Rai Rajendro Mullick Bahadur, with the title of *Raja Bahadur*, as a personal distinction, in recognition of his character and benevolence."

As before remarked Rajah Rajendro Mullick was a great student of natural history. The menagerie which he maintained in his house consisting of birds and animals collected from different parts of the world, was daily visited free by crowds of people coming from the metropolis and other distant places. Several respectable personages of Europe, as also of this country, who from time to time have inspected the menagerie and several works of indigenous art seemed to have been highly gratified with what they saw ; Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur

was the first man to establish a menagerie in the city and there was then no such institution in existence as the Zoological Garden at Alipur. He was in fact one of the prominent persons through whose exertions the establishment of the Alipur Zoological Gardens was first proposed and he liberally contributed towards it by presenting costly animals. In recognition of this, the first house built in the garden was named after him "Mullick's House."

He had also sent, on various occasions, different kinds of birds and animals to several Zoological Gardens in Europe whence, in return he received several valuable presents, comprising medals, diplomas, birds and animals and so forth. On the 4th of July, 1857, the Zoological Society of London presented him with a medal as being the first person who had introduced Himalayan pheasants into England. In a letter dated Melbourne, 25th May, 1863, he was elected by the Council of the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria an honorary member of the Society in acknowledgment of the many services rendered by him to the cause of acclimatisation. The Zoological Society of London appointed him a corresponding member of that society as per certificate dated 21st May 1863. The same

society, also by letter dated 2nd June, 1863, forwarded him a diploma, and assured him how highly the Council would value any co-operation he might be able to afford them in carrying out the object of the Society.

The President of the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp, Belgium, requested him (in a letter dated 22nd September, 1866) to maintain his relations with their Society by exchanging birds and animals.

On the 1st June 1867, the President and Council of Asiatic Society of Bengal returned their warmest thanks for the very kind and liberal way in which he had responded to their call, and also mentioned that the Council were greatly obliged to him for his handsome donation and his very kind offer of animals, and trusted that he would always continue to take the same lively interest as he had showed on that occasion in this most interesting branch of science. He was appointed a trustee of the Indian Museum by the Governor-General-in-Council on the 4th June 1869.

On the 19th May, 1875 the Trustees of the Indian Museum appointed him a member of the Finance and Library Committee.

Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur had a fine taste for botany as is evident from the collection

of certain wonderful trees which he had planted in his gardens, situated in the suburbs of Calcutta and in the one attached to his dwelling house. He was one of the best amateur painters and a good musician. He used to work as an arbitrator in many *half-akrai* singing.

Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur had a command over the Sanskrit and Bengali languages. His knowledge of English was tolerably good and he was also acquainted with the Persian language.

With a view to improve the locality of Chorebagan Rajah Rejendro Mullick Bahadur had voluntarily offered to Government without compensation several plots of land for the opening of some new streets, for which act of public utility he received several letters conveying thanks. The Corporation of Calcutta also has opened a street from Mukhtaram Babu's Street, just opposite to the gate of the "Marble Palace" leading to Baranashi Ghose's Street and named it "Rajah Rajendro Mullick's Street" in honour of the Rajah Bahadur.

Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur had some knowledge of Hindu medicine and was so kind to the poor, that he got medicines prepared at home under the proper supervision of the best

medical practitioners, for free distribution among them. In addition to the provision that had been made by his father for supplying medicines to the helpless, he had introduced some patent English medicines for epidemic fever testified to be harmless by the best Civil Surgeons for gratuitous distribution. Hundreds of men were seen flocking to the Hospital almost every day for help.

Mr. E. H. Nolan, P. H. D. L. L. D., author of the "History of the war against Russia" in his illustrated history of the British Empire in India and the East writes :—

"I was also entertained by Babu Rajendro Mullick, whose princely Estates and great wealth are noticeable above many others. Dutt's place is far less expensive, for Babu Mullick lives the gentleman and devotes his time to ornamenting his house by purchasing everything that comes from other parts. The more costly the article the better is he pleased. Animals and birds fill the garden, and his collection contains the feathered tribes of every land, from the Ostrich to the Emu, the Mandarin duck of China to the bird of paradise. The late Earl of Derby contributed something to the collection. I saw several goats from Cashmere the kind from whose wool the

celebrated, shawls are made. The goats thrive poorly out of the mountains and there were only five left out of some two hundred that the Babu owned. The Babu is most gentlemanly in his manners and well-informed in ancient and modern history, and speaks English with remarkable fluency. A few weeks since, he gave a most magnificent *nautch*. The large area in the centre was covered, and lights and lanterns shone over the expensive fountain and the ornamental stage. These *nautches* are peculiar to India and when given by a king, a prince or a millionaire, distinguished foreigners are invited."

Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur married the daughter of Babu Roop Lall Mullick, and sister of Babu Sham Charan Mullick, late proprietor of the property known as "The Seven Tanks." By her he had six sons namely Debendro Mullick, Mohendro Mullick, Girindro Mullick, Surendro Mullick, Jogendro Mullick and Manindro Mullick. Of these 4 sons namely Mohendro, Girindro, Surendro and Jogendro unfortunately died during the lifetime of the Raja Bahadur. If Heaven had spared their lives, there is no doubt they would have proved useful and honorable members of the Society, for they inherited all the great qualities of their noble father. Kumars

Girindro Mullick and Surendro Mullick each left a son—by name Kumar Brojendro Mullick and Kumar Ganendro Mullick—and they are now following in the footsteps of their deceased fathers.

Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur had a great attachmet to his friends, relatives and neighbours. He was always clad in simple dress and used to eat vegetable food but took fish only in cases of sickness when prescribed by his medical advisers. Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur was an orthodox Hindu, he devoted much of his time to pious observances. The Rajah Bahadur as a rule used to make enquiry about every morning from each of his sons and the members of his family whether they have attended the Thakurbati and regularly performed their religious duties such as prayers in accordance with the injunctions of the Hindu Shastras. Piety was the only exercise to which he was firmly attached, so much so, that he bore the deaths of his two grown-up and well-educated sons namely Kumar Girindro Mullick and Kumar Surendro Mullick, which occurred during the year 1879 without showing the least signs of external grief. Such of his friends, relations and acquaintances as went to condole with him were

astonished to observe the Rajah Bahadur's tranquillity of mind and to hear series of moral lessons on the subject of death and religion.

Much lamented by his friends and relations the Rajah Bahadur at the age of 68 years passed away on the night of the 14th April 1887 leaving behind a good name to his worthy sons Kumar Debendro Mullick and Kumar Monindro Mullick.

The Annual Report of the British Indian Association for the year 1886, contains the following tribute to the memory of Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur by the President, Rajah Rajendro Lall Mitra Bahadur L.L.D., C.I.E., at the annual meeting of the Association, held on the 20th April 1887.

"I cannot, on the present occasion forget another name. It is that of Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur, who died only the other day. He was a member of our Association for a very long time, he contributed very largely in support of all public charities, and was noted particularly for his urbanity. A more accomplished and finished gentleman you could not find in Calcutta. His liberality was princely, and in losing him the citizens of Calcutta have lost a most benevolent worthy member of Society. The poor of Calcutta have lost a father. You must all remember



that during the famine of 1865-66 he fed more than five thousand paupers daily, and for months. He contributed Rs. 40,000 for the support of such orphans as fell into the hands of the Famine Committee, and as a rule gave food and alms to more than a thousand persons daily at his house from years end to years end for many years together. This is a prediction which, I am afraid, I cannot assign to many persons in Calcutta, and it would be no exaggeration to say that in our Community he was a Peabody. He has left a worthy heir in Kumar Debendro Mullick. But what grieves me most is that his health has been failing for a long time. All I can wish is that he may, under Divine blessing, regain his health and live long to perpetuate the memory of his illustrious father."

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## CHAPTER VI.

**K**UMAR Debendra Mullick, the eldest son of the late Raja Rajendro Mullick Bahadur, was born on the 15th August, 1835. He was educated in the Oriental Seminary where he continued his studies up to the highest standard. He had a good command over the English language and was well-versed in Sanskrit. In addition to his knowledge of Western literature and science, he had great respect for the Shastras, and unlike many of his educated countrymen of the present day, he daily performed religious duties in accordance with the injunctions of the Shastras. He was a man of considerable taste and culture and was an enthusiastic lover of the fine arts. He had acquired considerable skill in painting and was clever as a sculptor. The admirable oilpainting of Queen Victoria at the time of her Coronation with the Imperial Crown on her head, which adorns a room in the family mansion, is entirely the work



KUMAR DEBENDRO MULLICK.



of Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadur. One of his last works—a group of horses—which also adorns the hall was sent by him to the Calcutta Picture Exhibition and won for him the highest praise. He gave considerable attention to public life. He was a Justice of the Peace and an honorary Presidency Magistrate, a nominated Municipal Commissioner, a member of the Council of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, a member of the Natural History Committee of the same Society, a representative of the Asiatic Society for the object of consulting with the Government for the establishment of the Zoological Gardens, a juror for the award of prizes for the Agricultural Exhibition, held at Alipur, Vice-President of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and a member also of the Executive Committee of the British Indian Association, of the District Charitable Society, the Cyclone and Famine Relief Fund Committee and of several other institutions. Latterly on account of failing health he had almost to cease from taking any part in public affairs. He however, always kept himself in touch with current topics of the day and sympathised with the feelings and aspirations of his countrymen. Whenever he had occasion to appear at a public meeting—and he

did so on important occasions in spite of his failing health—his words were listened to with attention. Full of sympathy for the poor and needy he was ever ready to open his purse-strings for the same. He gave away large sums of money to indigent students, widows, and orphans but his bounty was unostentatious for he loved to do good in secret.

Leaving his family and a circle of friends to mourn his loss Kumar Debendro Mullick died in the year 1894, at the age of 60 after spending a useful life throughout which he followed the examples of his honoured father and grandfather. He left an intelligent son named Kumar Nogendro Mullick, who is now the present honoured head of the illustrious house of the Chorebagan Mullick family.

In noticing the death of Kumar Debendro Mullick, the Indian Mirror, of 6th October, 1894, wrote as follows :—

“A scion of the great Mullick family has just passed away. It is with the sincerest grief that we have to record the death of Kumar Debendro Mullick of Chorebagan in Calcutta. We notice the passing away of the Kumar with all the greater sorrow because he was one of the very few Hindus remaining who led a truly blameless life in accordance with the injunctions

of the Shastras. The late Kumar Debendro Mullick indeed came of a lineage remarkable for diligent exercise of genuine Hindu virtues. Here is an authentic story related of the late Kumar Debendro Mullick's grand-father which effectively illustrates the overpowering passion of this family for doing good. It is said that Babu Nilmoni Mullick and his wife were about to sit down to their morning meal when a stranger famished and hungry, entered their dwelling and demanded their hospitality. There was no other cooked food in the house but the breakfast that was ready was at once given up to the stranger. This noble character was handed down by Babu Nilmani Mullick to his son Rajah Rajendro Mullick, and by the latter again to his son, the late Kumar Debendro Mullick. Indeed, we know it for certain, that the late lamented Kumar never sat down to his breakfast until he had fed a large number of the poor. Though belonging to an older generation, he was an educated man, but he was altogether free from presumption and vanity, which are noticeable among so many of the educated men of our time. He was humility itself. Friends and strangers were alike charmed with his suave manners which were the perfection of unaffected

simplicity and rare courtesy. To know him was a pleasure and a privilege, to talk to him was a liberal education and in addition to the charm of his manners and conversation, the late Kumar Debendro Mullick possessed a heart which stamped him as one of "God Almighty's gentleman." He was all sympathy and charity. He not only fed the poor but every one who sought his assistance came away the richer for his judicious counsel and his unfailing bounty. Of course, his deeds were not blazoned forth in the press, for the late Kumar was exceedingly modest and his left hand was not permitted to know what his right hand did. There was not a tinge of self-consciousness in him. All his thoughts and efforts were for others. But though he discarded all ostentation, and lacked every feeling of selfishness, he did not confine his activities to a narrow circle. He was one of the leading master-spirits of the British Indian Association and so long as health permitted him, he took a prominent part in every public movement. He was in full sympathy with the aspirations of his countrymen. The late Kumar Debendro Mullick was an educated man in the truest sense, for he was a man of excellent taste and varied culture. We believe that he cultivated the art



of painting and understood the art of sculpture. His palatial house at Chorebagan is stocked with pictures and works of art in marble and is one of the sights of Calcutta. Possessed of so many virtues as the late Kumar Debendro Mullick was, it is not necessary to descant upon each of them separately. He was an honour to the Subarna Banik Caste, and would have been equally an honour to the Brahmin caste ; indeed the late Kumar was an honour to the whole Hindu community, and his example of plain-living, high-thinking supplanted by his deeds of constant beneficence and charity, is worthy of imitation. Though he was by caste a Subarna Banik, the late Kumar Debendro Mullick was better and nobler by far the most Brahmins of this degenerate period.

The late Kumar Debendro Mullick was for many years an Honorary Magistrate of Calcutta, and a Justice of the Peace. He has left only one son, Kumar Nogendro Mullick.

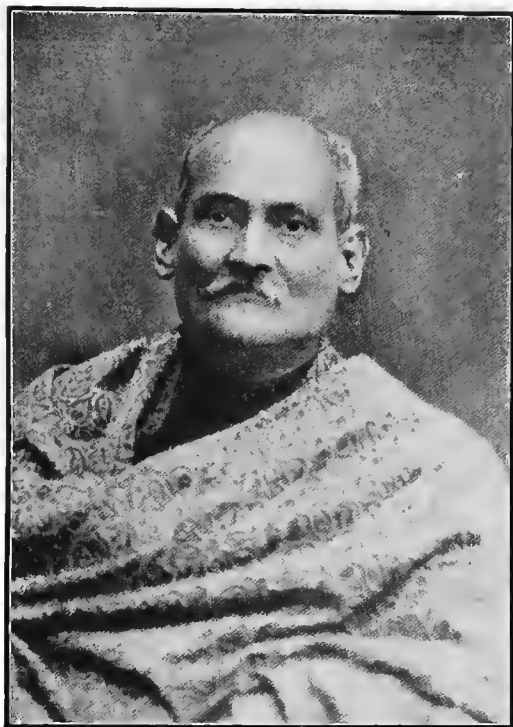
Sir Roper Lethbridge, K.C.I.E, in his Golden Book of India writes :—

“Debendro Nath Mullick, Kumar—The title is personal and was conferred on 18th July 1861, the Kumar being the eldest son of the late Rajah Rajendro Nath Mullick. The family name is Sil,

but the hereditary title of Mullick having been granted by the Old Moghul Emperors has been adopted as a family name. The family is very ancient, its pedigree for twenty generations is in existence and its head has long been reckoned the Dalapati or chief of the Subarna Vanik Caste and of the Brahmin of that clan. The crest of the family is an oval star enclosing a lion. Residence—Calcutta, Bengal.”

Monindro Mullick, the youngest son of Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur was born in 1848. He was educated at the Hindu School, Calcutta, where he acquired a good knowledge of English and Bengali. He also inherited several excellent qualities of his good and venerable father. He was very affable, courteous, and kind-hearted. His eldest brother Kumar Debendro Mullick gave him the entire charge of the Estate which he managed very ably, following in the footsteps of his distinguished fore-fathers. Kumar Monindro Mullick died on the 7th June 1904. He left no male issue.

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KUMAR MONINDRO MULLICK.



## CHAPTER VII.

**T**HE Mullick family of Chorebagan which is better known as the Millionaire Mullick family of Calcutta has now three grandsons of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur whose name has been made memorable by his princely endowment for the relief of a large number of poor *viz.*—

1. Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur, son of the late Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadur.

2. Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur, son of the late Kumar Girindro Mullick Bahadur.

3. Kumar Ganendro Mullick Bahadur, son of the late Kumar Surendro Mullick Bahadur.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur is the present head of this renowned family. He was born on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1853, and is now 62 years of age. He received his education first at the Government Sanskrit College, Calcutta. He completed his course of studies at the age of sixteen years and having passed

the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University he joined the Presidency College, Calcutta and there he studied for four years. Then he prosecuted <sup>his</sup> studies privately under some distinguished professors for several years.

During his college career he showed signs of sterling merit and by his assiduity in his studies and frank and generous bearing he won for himself the love and respect of his fellow students and the admiration of his Professors with whom he was a great favourite.

His thirst for acquiring knowledge is so intense that he is very often seen pouring over the works of great authors and he has gained thereby a fair knowledge on diverse subjects especially in literature, art and natural history.

Like his illustrious father, Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadur, he is proficient in English and Sanskrit and has inherited taste for art, which, as master-passion of his life, has enabled him to enrich the Art Gallery of his princely house which is one of the best that can be seen in India and the menagerie which is one of the notable sights of Calcutta.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick with the help of his two esteemed cousins Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur and Kumar Ganendro Mullick Ba-



KUMAR NOGENDRO MULICK.





hadur has accomplished what his illustrious forefathers began and by dint of great labour and at enormous expense of both money and time has succeeded in adding considerably to the vast collection of Art in the rooms, halls and galleries of their mansion, which is known by the name of "Mullick's Marble Palace" and with considerable trouble he has also catalogued the whole collection for easy reference of visitors.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto honored the magnificent Marble Palace of Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur with their kind visit on Saturday the 26th March, 1910. Their Excellencies spent a couple of hours in going round the various halls and corridors of the mansion and its twelve acres of ground, stocked with a galaxy of marble and bronze statues, classical, mythical and heraldic. Their Excellencies were immensely delighted with what they saw and having congratulated Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur on being the proud possessor of this valuable collection which the Viceroy pronounced to be truly a most wonderful one. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto were pleased to send their autographed photos, with permission to be kept in the hall as a memento of their visit.

Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Hardinge also paid a visit to the Marble Palace on Monday the 4th March, 1912, on the occasion of the marriage ceremony of a nephew of Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur. Their Excellencies were shown round the galleries by their hosts, and on leaving expressed their high appreciation of the valuable Art collection they had inspected, and besides Their Excellencies were pleased to send their autographed photos, as a present to the Kumar Bahadur.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur has inherited all the noble qualities of his great ancestors and he worthily continues their princely liberality and charity. His natural talents and accomplishments are of a very high order, and in his heart-felt loyalty and devotion to His Most Excellent Majesty the King-Emperor of India, he unswervingly follows the traditions of his illustrious house. He fulfils his religious obligations in the orthodox way.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur has given a considerable attention to the public life. He is the President of the Subarna Banik Samaj. He was also the President of the Subarna Banik Samiti for some years, the President of Babu Peari Charan Sarkar's girls' school, the Vice-

President of the Bow-Bazar Art School, one of the trustees and Vice Presidents of the British Indian Association and a member of the Executive Committee of that body, President and subsequently Vice-President of the District Charitable Society Native Committee and various other institutions of public benefit.

Kumar Nagendro Mullick Bahadur is a man of spotless character and piously devoted to his own Hindu religion. In private life, the Kumar Bahadur is a model of what a man in his high position ought to be. His amiability, gentleness, intelligence and particularly, his noted urbanity have made him a general favourite. Owing to this social position Kumar Nagendro Mullick Bahadur is recognised as the Dalapati or the head of a large number of families of his own caste. In short he is a man of exemplary character.

Kumar Nagendro Mullick Bahadur is held in high esteem by the entire Hindu Community and his example of plain living, high thinking and deeds of constant benevolence and charity, like those of his father, Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadur, are also worthy of imitation.

In recognition of his munificence and charity he was awarded a Coronation Medal at the Delhi Durbar of 1912.

The poor and destitute of all castes of Calcutta and its neighbourhood attend daily in large number at the Mullick's Marble Palace in Chorebagan, to receive the family bounty.

Although the Will of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur provides for the feeding of 500 (five hundred) people daily, yet, the number has now run to nearly one thousand souls daily as will be seen from the statement given below, for the Bengali year 1321 *vis*:—

Baisak	...	...	29,126
Jaistha	...	...	30,263
Ashar	...	...	31,613
Sraban	...	...	30,860
Bhadra	...	...	31,013
Aswin	...	...	30,898
Kartic	...	...	29,712
Agrahayan	...	...	27,974
Pous	...	...	27,043
Magh	...	...	29,330
Falgun	...	...	29,040
Chaitra	...	...	26,202

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Total ... 353,074

On religious and festive occasions or at times of famine and other emergencies there is no limit to this laudable dole, when the number exceeds

one thousand. For whoever comes is never disappointed.

The considerable increase beyond the provision of the will is purely due to the profuse liberality of Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur, the present head of the family who really feels for the poor in these days of scarcity and hardship.

Mullick's Marble Palace is situated in the congested part of the City. The people of that quarter felt the want of a park. To remove this keenly-felt want of the people, Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur acquired 20 bighas of land (nearly 7 acres) at an enormous cost of over ten lakhs of rupees and converted the whole plot into an open park with a garden for the use of the public.

Mr. Greer, the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation inspected the park on Friday, the 15th July, 1902 and was good enough to fix a moderate tax on this plot, as it has been set apart by the Kumar Bahadur, for the use of the public, as a place of recreation.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur has been doing a great service to the Bengali community by his practical efforts to induce young Bengalees to pay due regard to physical culture. He main-

tains nice play-grounds in the park of his Palace for the use of the public.

For the convenience of the public, the Marble Palace or the Art Gallery is kept open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. when visitors from every part of the globe are most cordially received.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur contributes liberally to various charitable societies. His munificent donations have been recorded in aid of every public cause. He is ever ready to assist in every good movement and gives away large sums of money to indigent students, widows and orphans. Kumar Nogendro Mullicks' bounty has become almost proverbial in India.

Besides these, Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur makes several donations for the benefit of the public when required.

Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur has one son (adopted) named Kumar Jitendra Mullick.

Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur, son of the late Kumar Girindro Mullick Bahadur, was born on Wednesday, the 15th September 1875. He received his education first in the Hindu School, Calcutta, where he completed his course of studies and then his education was continued at home



KUMAR BROJENDRO MULLICK.





under the supervision of some distinguished graduates of the University of Calcutta.

Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur is possessed, from his very boyhood, of deep spiritual thoughts and these have been the guiding principle of his life, even in the management of his temporal affairs.

Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur is strongly attached to the faith of his ancestors *viz. Vaisnavism*. He has devoted himself heart and soul as a Hindu to the realisation of that *Supreme Truth* which was pronounced and promulgated, about four hundred and fifty years ago by Chaitanya, the great Seer of Nadia and has received a sound religious education and he, it is hoped, will in the fullness of time, prove a worthy son of a worthy father. He performs religious duties in accordance with the injunctions of the Shastras.

From his boyhood Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur is charitably disposed and many instances of his kindness of heart are narrated by his class-mates. He is by disposition extremely courteous, kind and liberal.

Most of the charities of Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur are of a private character, in which respect he follows the scriptural teaching

of not letting the left hand know what the right hand doeth. He is the Secretary of the Indian Sangit Samaj.

In recognition of his liberality, and charity, Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur was awarded a Coronation Medal at the Delhi Durbar of 1912. Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur has one son named Kumar Dinendro Mullick.

Kumar Ganendro Mullick Bahadur, son of the late Kumar Surendro Mullick Bahadur, was born on Sunday, the 16th June, 1876. He was educated in the Hindu School, Calcutta, and having completed his course of studies there he continued his studies privately for some years under the supervisions of some distinguished graduates of the Calcutta University and thus he has acquired a fair knowledge in English.

Kumar Ganendro Mullick is a young man of considerable taste and culture and is an enthusiastic lover of fine arts. He has acquired considerable skill in painting and is as clever as a sculptor.

Kumar Ganendro Mullick Bahadur is a pleasing, well-educated, energetic young man of 40 years of age, having a good knowledge of practical engineering and surveying. He is a good all-round athlete, indulging in all kinds



KUMAR GANENDRO MULLICK.



of manly sports. He has a keen insight into fine arts and it is purely due to his unwearied exertions the stock of the Art treasury of the Marble Palace is increasing day by day.

In recognition of his liberality and charity, which are the characteristic of the family to which he belongs, Kumar Ganendro Mullick Bahadur was awarded a Coronation Medal at the Delhi Durbar of 1912.

Kumar Ganendro Mullick Bahadur has one son, named Kumar Gopendro Mullick.

Kumar Jitendro Mullick, son of Kumar Nongendro Mullick Bahadur was born on Wednesday the 4th July, 1894. His education was at first conducted at home for some years under the supervision of some distinguished graduates of the Calcutta University to befit him for a higher class of an Entrance School. He first joined the Hindu School, Calcutta, where he continued his studies, for 3 years but subsequently he joined the Morton Institution, Calcutta. From this School Kumar Jitendro Mullick has creditably passed the Matriculation Examination this year and has now joined the Presidency College, Calcutta for I. A. Examination.

Kumar Jitendro Mullick has inherited all the noble qualities of his ancestors. He also

is extremely courteous, kind and liberal—May God bless him and crown him with success and lead him to the path of glory and virtue.

Kumar Dinendro Mullick, son of Kuwar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur was born on Sunday the 17th October 1895. For some years he received his education privately at home under the supervision of some experienced teachers and subsequently in the hope of passing the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University he first joined the Hindu School, Calcutta, where he read for three years and then he got his admission in the Bramho Boys' School, Calcutta, in July 1914. From this school he creditably passed the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University in 1915. Kumar Dinendro Mullick has now joined the Presidency College, Calcutta for I.S.C. Examination.

Kumar Dinendro Mullick is highly efficient in painting. He is a master painter—nay he is a born artist. The portraits of Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur and Kumar Brojendro Mullick Bahadur drawn by young Kumar Dinendro Mullick are the specimens of his marvellous skill in the art. "Study" by Guercino has also been copied by Kumar Dinendro Mullick. His works also adorn the halls of the Marble Palace. Kumar



KUMAR JITENDRO MULLICK.







KUMAR DINENDRO MULLICK.





KUMAR GOPENDRO MULICK.



Dinendro Mullick is extremely courteous and kind and has a great attachment to his friends, relatives and neighbours.

Kumar Gopendro Mullick, son of Kumar Ganendro Mullick Bahadur was born on Thursday the 23rd March 1905. He is being taught by experienced teachers at home with the view of getting him admitted into a higher class of the Hindu School, Calcutta. He is a fairly promising boy.

The staunch loyalty of the present Kumar Bahadurs was fully testified to on the occasion of the sad death of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII and of the accession of His Gracious Majesty King George V to the throne. On accession day divine hymns were sung and prayers offered in their Thakurbati and an innumerable number of paupers, in addition to the number daily fed, were given alms and food. On the Coronation day the Mullicks exceeded even their generous hospitality to the poor of Calcutta. Hundreds of the poor were fed and given clothes. The Kumar Bahadurs took a prominent part in the organization of the "Calcutta Fete" which was held in January 1915, at their Marble Palace for contributing towards The Imperial Indian Relief Fund inaugurated by the Viceroy with the approv-

al of His Majesty for affording relief to all ciasses of Indian sufferers from the consequences of the great war. The "Fete" was undoubtedly a demonstration of the present Kumar Bahadurs' loyalty that they sincerely cherish in the heart of their hearts to Our most beloved Sovereign, who, even in the midst of hostilities, nay in a crisis like this, is taking keen interest in our Indian troops and sympathising with all Indians in general suffering from the effects of the war.

The Mullick family of Chorebagan holds vast properties in Calcutta, as well as, in the suburbs and is the biggest rate payer in Calcutta.

Government have been pleased to grant twelve retainers to the family, who are exempted from the Arms Act.

May God bless the Kumar Bahadhurs and their family with long life, health, peace and prosperity and lead them to the path of glory and virtue.

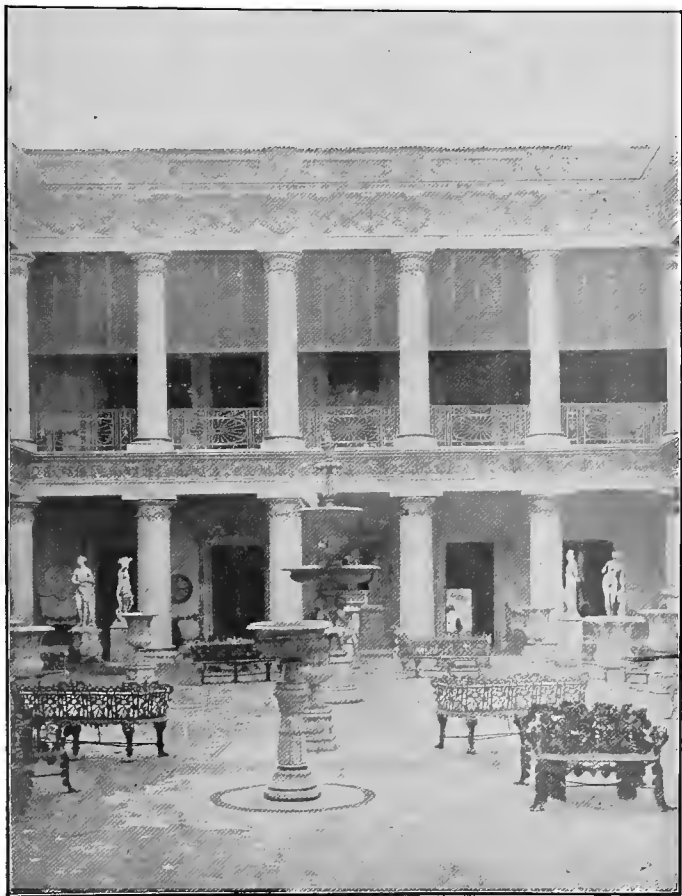
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THE POOJAH PLACE







SIDE VIEW OF THE COURTYARD.

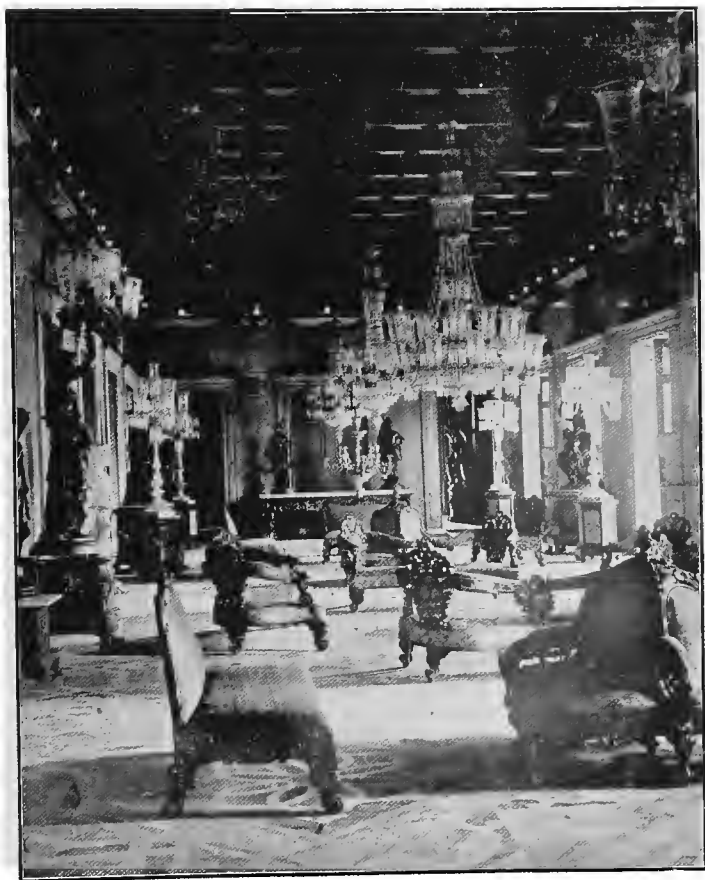


## CHAPTER VIII.

### MARBLE PALACE.

THE Mullick mansion is known by the name of the Late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's Marble Palace and is situated in Mooktarām Babu's Street, Chorebagan, adjacent to the Chitpur Road. All the members of the Mullick family take considerable interest in art and are mainly concerned in adding to the magnificent collection of pictures and statues that grace the family mansion, which was started by their grandfather the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur. The family mansion at Chorebagan is a veritable art treasure-house. It may be said without exaggeration that with regard to the architectural beauty of the exterior including the grounds and the unique and *recherche* works of Art to be found within the mansion, the Mullick house has no equal in India. Extending over 12 acres of land, it is really an edifice of beauty and pleasing to the sight. Its magni-

ificent marble halls, the materials of which include over 90 varieties of beautiful marbles brought from every part of the globe, are remarkable specimens of Oriental Architecture. It is surrounded by a high railing and the grounds are embellished with statues and adorned with aviaries of rare birds. The interior is decorated in a gorgeous and lavish style with ceilings richly and picturesquely gilded and decorated. The rich multi-coloured Chandeliers of prismatic glass add much to the beauty of the apartments. The floors are of mosaic marble, and the walls of many of the chambers are of beautiful Italian marbles. A galaxy of bronze and marble statues in the best style—classical, mythological and heraldic—adorn the corridors and recesses. The late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur spent a fortune in furnishing this house, and making an absolutely unique collection of pictures and statues by eminent artists of every country. Like his distinguished father, late Kumar Debendro Mullick Bahadur was also a lover of art, and he too made it the chief object of his life to enrich the Art Gallery of the mansion. In short, the whole collection of the works of Art is the result of the indefatigable care, labour and research of the Mullicks. They have recently been care-



THE MARBLE HALL.



fully arranged, perfected and catalogued by Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur, the present head of this illustrious Mullick family, who deserves the well-merited praise usually bestowed on him by ladies and gentlemen who visit his palatial residence.

Just to inform the reader what he or she may expect from a visit to the æsthetic Palace of Art, situated in the midst of Calcutta's great traffic the following succinct description will suffice :—

On entering by the main gateway the visitor sees on the compound of the north lawn a number of marble statues excellently executed by eminent artists. The effect of the scene is heightened by a marble fountain representing four figures, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The first thing that meets the eye on the West lawn is a life-sized marble statue of Michael Angelo, then a magnificent statue of Venus at the Bath and a large and full sized bronze figure of an English Cow presented to the Mullicks by Sir Elijah Impey, Chief Justice of the Old Supreme Court of Bengal.

On the grand landing are to be found statues of Discobolus, Minerva, Bacchus, Demosthenes, of Una on the Lion, Erena on the Tiger and

many others all in marble or bronze. A beautiful bust of Christ wearing the Crown of Thorns is to be seen in the north marble hall on the ground floor and also busts of Napoleon and Wellington. On the Eastern side of this hall statues of Mercury, Psyche and Venus with Cupid rising from the Sun are the most striking objects. Then a lovely bust of Virgin Mary is to be seen among the other groups of well-known and world-famed figures. Passing to the Northwest chamber, the walls of which are of red marble with pillars of green Grecian marble is to be seen an excellently executed colossal statue of Her late Majesty the Queen Empress Victoria with whom the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur was a favourite. This statue represents the Queen in her Coronation robes. There is also in the staircase room a lovely marble bust of Her late Majesty by Zununi which received the Gold Medal at the Calcutta International Exhibition in 1884. The visitor will then come across in the courtyard four beautiful statues, representing the four continents of the globe :—Asia with a lion, Africa with a camel, Europe with a horse, and America with a crocodile. Another statue that is worth mentioning is of Apollo Belvedere copied from the one in the Vatican Palace in Rome. This





THE DRAWING ROOM (1ST. FLOOR).



is supposed to be one of the noblest representations extant of the human form. Among the other best works of eminent sculptors are to be found the marble figures of Diana, Versailles, Venus of Canova, Galelio, Columbus etc., etc. The bronze Equestrian figures of Charles François I., Jeanne-de-Arc, Napolion, Queen Elizabeth, Charlemagne, Duke of Wellington etc., are remarkable specimens of works of Art.

In the collection also is to be seen a very valuable ancient Dresden China Centre-piece which was presented by Viscount Hardinge (the grand-father of the Viceroy who has lately retired) when he was Governor-General, to Rajah Baidyanath Roy of Cossipur, who was a relative of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur. Rajah Baidyanath Roy thinking the Mullick's Marble Palace the most fitting home for such a splendid and rare gift, had it placed there among its present beautiful surroundings.

The Art Gallery on the first floor contains a selection of the works of the most eminent masters of past and present days. They embrace a wide range of subjects secured without regard to cost, and are things of beauty and joy for as long as they shall last.

Amongst them are representative works of the French, Italian and Flemish Schools of Pre-Raphael and Renaissance days, as also examples by famous Chinese and Indian artists, and by an innumerable number of dead and forgotten artists of countries all over the world.

Among the Biblical paintings that command great admiration are those of "Christ flying to Egypt" by Pante Jacopoda, called Ill Bassano Burgamese (Venetian 1510-1592); "Descent from the Cross" copied from the one by Rubens in the Antwerp Cathedral; Raphael's "Madona; Infant Christ and St. John"; Guido's "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian"; "Marriage of St. Catharine," by Lorenzo De San Severeno, a painter of the Umbrian School in the 15th Century; "Christ dead" by Titian of the 15th Century; "Lords Supper", by Battista from the original painting at Milan etc.

The following Historical subjects are worthy of note :—

Stuart's "Battle of Trafalgar" and "Spanish Armada"; Geslins' "King of Prussia causing the papers of Voltaire to be seized"; Her Majesty the Queen and Her Family", and "The Royal Family in 1848." showing King Edward VII standing with Queen Victoria, copied from the paint-



STATUE GALLERY FACING THE GARDEN.



ings at Westminster Abbey; Labran Charle's "Family of Darius at the feet of Alexander the Great," "Cleopatra and Asp" by Guido Renne and many others.

Among the mythological subjects the following attract attention :—

"Apollo slaying Marsyas alive" by Rubens ; Sir Joshua Reynold's "Infant Hercules strangling the serpent" ; "Orpheus and the Origin of Love" by Sir Charles D'oyly ; Sebastiano Ricais' "Venus and Cupid Asleep" ; "Marriage of St., Catherine" by Rubens which was presented by Lord Northbrook to the Government School of Art and afterwards came into the possession of the present owners ; "Cupid and Psyche" ; 'Paul and Virginia'; Le Suir's "Diana and Endymion"; Booth's "Judgement of Paris" ; "Three Graces and Cupid"; "Komeo and Juliet" etc.

Besides these, hundreds of others may be seen in this grand and unique collection—the finest of its kind in the City—of which many deserve special attention. For particulars vide the catalogue published by Kumar Nogendro Mullick Bahadur which contains an adequate description of what is to be seen within the walls of the Marble Palace.

FINIS.





# Opinion of the Presses.

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*In the "Empress" an Illustrated Journal,  
of the 1st March, 1912, the following  
description is given :—*

The Marble Palace at Chorebagan, the princely residence of the Mullick family, has been much in evidence of late. It always is in evidence, in fact, for the European visitor to Calcutta who returns Home without having seen this noble building, and the art treasures contained therein, has missed one of the greatest sights of this city. On Saturday, 2nd of March, Calcutta society was invited by the Kumar Nogendro Mullick, the present head of the Mullick family, to attend an evening party at the Marble Palace, in celebration of the marriage of his nephew, Dinendro Mullick. Needless to say, Calcutta society availed itself of the double opportunity of attending a most enjoyable evening's entertainment and at the same time of roam-

ing through the art galleries and quadrangles of this famous dwelling, which were most lavishly decorated and brilliantly illuminated for the occasion. The Bridegroom, Dinendro Mullick, is, as above stated, a nephew of the head of the family, while the Bride is the grand-daughter of Babu Debendro Nath Mullick of Colootollah. The Mullick family is one of the leading Bengali families, whose title dates from the days of the Mogul Empire in India, having been bestowed by the Mogul Government on Jadab Sil, who was head of the family in the thirteenth generation. Though known by the title "Mullick" the family still retain the name of Sil, although it is used only in religious and matrimonial ceremonies. The Mullicks are members of the "Subarnabanik" caste of Hindus and their traditional business is that of bankers and merchants.

The family now consists of three grandsons of the Rajah Rajendro Mullick, namely the Kumar Nogendro Mullick, son of the late Kumar Debendro Mullick, Kumar Brojendro Mullick, son of the late Kumar Girindro Mullick, and Kumar Ganendro Mullick, son of the late Kumar Surendro Mullick.

All the members of the family take considerable interest in art and are mainly concerned in

adding to the magnificent collection of pictures and statues that grace the family mansion, which was started by their grandfather, the late Rajah Rajendro. The family mansion at Chorebagan is a veritable art treasure house. Its magnificent marble hall, the material of which has been brought from every part of the world, is a remarkable specimen of Oriental Architecture. It is surrounded by a high railing, and the grounds are embellished with statues and adorned with aviaries of rare birds. The interior is decorated in lavish style, with gilded ceilings, and the floors are of inlaid marble. Bronze and marble statues from France and Italy adorn the corridors and recesses. The late Rajah Rajendro Mullick spent a fortune in furnishing this house, and in making an absolutely unique collection of pictures and statues by eminent artists of every country. Like his distinguished father, the late Kumar Debendro Mullick was also a lover of art, and he too made it the chief object of his life to enrich the Art Gallery of the family mansion. This Art Gallery is, without exaggeration, one of the best in India.

As an example of the artistic taste that has been a distinguishing feature of the family for three generations, a few of the objects of art

that have been gathered together may be mentioned here. In the compound to the north are to be found a number of marble statues, executed by eminent artists. The effect of the scene is heightened by a marble fountain, representing four figures, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The first thing that meets the eye on the west lawn is a life-size marble statue of Michael Angelo, a statue of Venus at the bath, and a full-size bronze figure of an English cow which was presented by Sir Elijah Impey, Chief Justice of the old Supreme Court of Bengal. On the grand landing are to be found statues of Discobolus, Minerva, Bacchus, Demosthenes, of Una on the Lion, Erena on the Tiger, etc. The collection in the north marble hall includes a beautiful bust of Christ with the crown of thorns, and busts of Napoleon and Wellington. Eastward, statues of Psyche, Venus, and Mercury are the most striking objects, and there is a beautiful bust of the Virgin Mary. In a red marble-walled chamber, is a colossal statue of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria in her coronation robes. The courtyard contains four beautiful statues, representing the four Continents. Another statue worthy of mention is that of Apollo Belvedere, after the one in the

Vatican Palace at Rome. This is supposed to be one of the noblest representations extant of the human form.

Among the oil paintings, one which attracts no little attention is that of the Flight into Egypt, by Pante Jacopoda, called Bassano Burganese (Venetian, 1510-1512). "The Descent from the Cross" is another beautiful Biblical picture, copied from the famous original in the Antwerp Cathedral. "The marriage of St. Catherine" by Rubens is another striking painting, which was presented by Lord Northbrook to the Government School of Art, and has since come into the possession of its present owners. The late Kumar Debendro Mullick, who was himself an artist of repute, was the recipient of a beautiful picture, entitled "A Sybil," after Guereino, which now adorns the collection. "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian," after Guido; "Diana and Endymion" by Le Jenué or Le Suir; "Marriage of St. Catherine" by Lorenzo Di San Severno, a painter of the Umbrian school in the 15th century. "The Lord's Supper," after Leonarade Vincent, by Tripolo Giovanni Battista; "Mater Dolorosa" after Raphael; "Charge of the 16th (Queen's Own) Lancers," at the Battle of Aliwal, January 28th, 1846. These and hundreds of other

famous pictures are to be seen in the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's art galleries.

On Monday, the 4th of March, Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Hardinge, who had been unable to attend the wedding party, paid an informal visits to the Marble Palace accompanied by Lady Jenkins. On arrival they were received by the Kumars Nogendro Mullick, Brojendro Mullick, and Ganendro Mullick, the present chief representatives of the family, and all of them grandsons of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick who died 14th April in 1887, and was one of the most prominent citizens of his day. Their Excellencies were shown over the galleries by their host, and on leaving, expressed their appreciation of the valuable art collection they had inspected.

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*The following description of the mansion is given in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of 14th January, 1899.*

"A visit to the mansion of Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur in Chorebagan, as most of our town readers know very well.....will prove a real treat. The visitor is sure to be lost in wonder at the splendour and wealth that he will find all around him. It will not, indeed, be too much to say that there is not another house in Calcutta, and perhaps in Bengal, more gorgeously furnished and containing a large number of works of art in sculpture and painting than the mansion of Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur. We have no large knowledge of the interiors of the palaces of Indian princes or of the mansions of English noblemen, but we believe there are few houses in England or in America which can compare favourably with the one that we will try to describe in a few words. The outer compound of the mansion, enclosed by a high iron railing and embellished with large statues and a pretty lawn with aviaries etc., is known to all citizens of Calcutta. It is here that a large number of beggars are fed every day at the cost of Kumar Bahadur. Driving along the wide carriage drive one enters the long verandah which, too contains

a number of statues. Passing through the entrance hall, the real magnificence of the mansion begins to be apparent. The ceiling is gorgeously gilded, while the floor is a mosaic of real marbles of the highest finish. Bronze and marble statues of Cupid and Psyche, the three Graces etc., adorn the hall, which opens on the spacious quadrangle, paved with mosaic and similarly adorned with statues from Italy and France. On the other side of the quadrangle stands the Dalan where are placed two immense marble vases (the largest in the city), and the magnificent statues of Diana and Apollo, the like of which are not to be seen elsewhere in India.

“On the north side of the quadrangle is the spacious North Hall.....The walls are of splendid marble specially brought from Italy. The ceiling of this large hall (one of the largest in the city) is gilded, and the design is of great beauty. The costly bronze and marble statues and statuettes that embellish the splendid apartment deserve especial notice. Among others, the visitor will find statues representing Jesus Christ, Virgin Mary, the Four Season, Venus rising from the Sea, the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon, Day and Night, Venus De Medici, Queen Victoria, the Prince Consort, etc.



"Passing on to the coloured-marble hall—more strikingly beautiful if of smaller dimensions—the visitor stands before an excellently executed wooden statue of Queen Victoria in the magnificent robes of her Coronation, standing on a grand pedestal. The walls of this room are of blood-vein marble, with pillars of green Grecian marble. It also contains a marble statue of Her late Majesty which obtained a gold medal at the Calcutta International Exhibition held in the years 1883-84. We now ascend to the first floor, to halls more richly and handsomely furnished than those on the ground floor, containing statuettes of the richest and most beautiful description which it is simply impossible to catalogue within the brief compass of a short article. The magnificent chandeliers of cut glass heighten the beauty of the apartments, but their chief attraction is, of course, the rich collection of oil paintings by old masters—Rubens, Vandyke, Sir Joshua Reynolds and others—and copies of well-known works by distinguished modern artists."

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*The "Indian Mirror" of Calcutta,  
Tuesday, 2nd March, 1909, writes :—*

## **A MAGNIFICENT PALACE AND THE BEST ART GALLERY IN CALCUTTA.**

Calcutta has been variously described by various writers. It is called the City of Palaces, the City of Statues, the City of Endless Talk and the most foul-smelling city outside China. Globe-trotters, who in a three months' trip pretend to know all about the habitable globe, have come and stayed for about a week or so in one of Calcutta's fashionable hotels, and then gone home to write elaborate dissertations on the social, commercial and political life on the capital of British India. There are handbooks too of Calcutta which mention various sights—the Black Hole, the Museum, the Zoo, the New Corporation Building, the new Theatres and so forth. But we wonder whether any of the handbooks have ever mentioned, or any of the sight-seeing fraternity have ever come across, those few great things which are contained in the tight-packed Indian quarter of the city. For the matter of that, we doubt very much if even those, born and bred in Calcutta, know all that it contains.

It may be inquired, for example, how many of us who have lived in Calcutta for the best part of our lives, have seen the magnificent palace of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur at 20, Mukhtaram Babu's Street, Chorebagan. There are few houses in Calcutta, and for the matter of that, in the whole of India, to surpass this in its architectural grandeur, its magnificent fittings, and in the wealth of art which it contains. It may not be generally known that the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick, a man of rare æsthetic taste and of many accomplishments, spent the fortune of a prince in furnishing his house, and making a unique collection of pictures and statues by eminent artists of the world. Like his distinguished father, the late Kumar Debendro Mullick, the eldest son of Rajah Rajendro Mullick, was also a lover of art, and he too made it the chief object of his life to enrich the Art Gallery of his house. Those who think that Hindus have no taste for art, will find their mistake on a visit to the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's Art Gallery which is, without exaggeration, one of the best that can be seen in India.

This unique art-collection, in which every Bengali ought to take pride, has lately been

arranged in proper order, on the occasion of the marriage of the son of Kumar Nogendro Mullick, grandson of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick and the son of the late Kumar Debendro Mullick. In honour of the occasion, a party was given to a large number of European and Indian ladies and gentlemen, and everyone of the guests was agreeably surprised at the artistic wealth in this magnificent house. It is impossible to describe all that one may see at the Rajah Rajendro Mullick's palace, but it may not be out of place to mention just a few, to show what an artistic taste has distinguished three generations of the family. In the compound of the north lawn are to be found a number of marble statues, executed by eminent artists. The effect of the scene is heightened by a marble fountain, representing four figures—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The first thing that meets the eye in the west lawn is a life-size marble statue of Michael Angelo, a statue of Venus at the bath, and a full-size bronze figure of an English cow which was presented by Sir Elijah Impey, Chief Justice of the old Supreme Court of Bengal. On the grand landing are to be found statues of Discobolus, Minerva, Bacchus, Demosthenes, of Una on Lion, of

**Arena on Tiger, &c.** The collection in the north marble hall, ground floor, south, includes a beautiful bust of Christ adorned with thorn, and busts of Napoleon and Wellington. Eastwards, statues of Psyche, Venus and Mercury are the most beautiful objects. The visitor will then come across among other figures, a beautiful marble bust of Virgin Mary. In the north west red marble-walled chamber, is a colossal statue of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria in her coronation dress. The courtyard contains four beautiful statues, representing four continents, *viz.*, Asia with Lion, Africa with Camel, Europe with Horse, and America with Corcodile. Another worth mentioning is the statue of Apollo Belvedere, after the one in the Vatican Palace at Rome. This is supposed to be one of the noblest representations of the human frame. Among the oil paintings, one which attracts no little admiration is that of Christ flying to Egypt by Pante Jacopoda, called "Il Bassano Burgamese" (Venetian 1510-1592). "Descent from the Cross" is another beautiful Biblical picture, copied from the famous original in the Antwerp Cathedral. "The Marriage of St. Catherine" by Rubens is another beautiful painting, which was presented by Lord Northbrook

to the Government School of Art, and has since come to the possession of its present owners. The late Kumar Debendro Mullick, who was a great artist himself, was the recipient of a beautiful picture, entitled "A Sybil after Guercino," which now adorns the east wall of the north-west marble chamber of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's house. "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian," after Guido, "Dianna and Endymion" by Le Jenne or Le Suir, "Marriage of St. Catherine" by Lorenzo Di San Severeno, a painter of the Umbrian School in the 15th century, "The Lord's Supper", after Leonard Vincent, by Tripolo Giovanni Battista, "Mater Dolorosa" after Raphæl, "Charge of the 16th (Queen's Own) Lancers" at the Battle of Aliwal, January 28th, 1846,—these and hundreds of other famous pictures are to be seen in the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's Art Gallery.

The Art Gallery is indeed, a thing of beauty and joy for ever, and we would ask our European friends who have a taste for art, not to miss the opportunity of seeing this famous collection. We would ask Kumar Nogendro Mullick, who worthily represents in his person the traditions of this distinguished aristocratic house, to give another party, which will afford an op-

portunity to our European friends to see the beautiful art-collection, as well as the magnificent fittings of the house. Kumar Nogendro Mullick has done a most praiseworthy thing in getting the collection in order, and printing a catalogue of the same. The party, given by him on the occasion of the marriage of his son, was a brilliant success. The fame of the Mullicks of Chorebagan for hospitality and charity was fully maintained. We have no doubt that the second party, which we suggest, if given will be ranked also as one of the great events of the present Calcutta season.

The late Raja Rajendro Mullick was esteemed and honoured by every section of the community, both European and Indian. He had a worthy son in the late Kumar Debendro Mullick who was not only a distinguished artist, but a prominent member of the aristocracy of the Province. It is a pity that his talents and liberality were marked by no higher distinction than that of Kumar. It will be a grateful act on the part of Government, if the omission is rectified in the case of the present head of the house, Kumar Nogendro Mullick, who possesses all the accomplishments which distinguished his ancestors. The Mullicks of Chorebagan have

been distinguished for generations past for their princely charities, public benefactions, works of piety, and deep-rooted loyalty to the Government. The late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's house is perhaps the only house in Calcutta at present, where hundreds of poor, hungry people are fed daily. Amiability and courtesy have been characteristics of every member of this house. The late Rajah Rajendro Mullick was acknowledged as one of the most polished gentlemen of his time, and so was the late Kumar Debendro Mullick. The grand old title of gentleman has been fully earned by the present head of the family, Kumar Nogendro Mullick. In our opinion, the house fully deserves a hereditary title, by reason of the eminent services it has done, for the past three generations at least, to the cause of art and charity, and of its unswerving loyalty to the Government. Anyhow those who have not yet seen the magnificent house of the late Raja Rajendro Mullick's, should not miss an opportunity of doing so. It is a house worthy of the capital of British India, and it has often occurred to us that if it were only situated in the Southern Division of the city, it might have furnished a most magnificent foreground for the Victoria Memorial Hall.



The late Rajah Rajendro Mullick's house with its unique art-collection, which has cost an immense fortune, its most valuable fittings in the shape of rare chandeliers, furniture, etc., and its menagerie, is one of the notable sights of Calcutta. The architectural beauty of this palatial residence, is in itself a thing worth the study of an artist. A European visitor to Calcutta, who returns home without seeing the late Raja Rajendro Mullick's palace, has missed one of the greatest sights of the metropolis.

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*The "Empire" the Calcutta Evening News of 16th March, Tuesday, 1909, writes :—*

**CALCUTTA'S "BURLINGTON HOUSE."**

—:O:—

**A HIDDEN PALACE OF ART REVEALED.**

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(*"Empire" Special.*)

Hidden away in an agglomeration of bustees, remote yet penetrable within a stone's throw of the grimy, bustling Chitpore Road there is situate in Chore Bagan what may very aptly be described as the Burlington House of Calcutta.

The gallery in question is the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur's palace and the present residence of Mr. Kumar Nogendro Mullick and his two brothers Mr. Brojendro Mullick and Mr. Kumar Ganendro Mullick.

Lineally a family of artists the present generation are chiefly concerned in augmenting the magnificent collection of pictures and statues which the earlier members from the root of the family tree spared neither pains nor money to get together. The palace is, internally and externally, architecturally and artistically, one of the finest Indian residences in Calcutta and the treasures carefully preserved within it admirably fulfil the art-lover's eager expectancy. What is a more surprising and inconceivable fact is that both the palace and contents are almost unknown to the European element of Calcutta, albeit its gates are never closed and everybody who cares may, and is, ever welcome to enter.

Dotted over the twelve acres of ground is a galaxy of marble and bronze statues classical, mythical and heraldic. Inside the mansion, luxuriously decorated with paint and gold and otherwise richly embellished is a profusion of admirable work of the chisel and brush and on

the grand landing a full sized marble image of Minerva points appropriately to the ideal originally aspired after and now attained by this family of ardent enthusiasts. In the marble halls on the ground floor is to be seen the best work of the sculptors of France and Italy—Fonderie, De Miroy, Zununi, D. Brucciani, Morean and Prof. Fobbleriotti are all represented.

Notable in this province is a colossal statue of the Queen Victoria—with whom the late Rajah was a favourite—in her coronation robes and the marble bust of her late Majesty by Zununi which received a gold medal at the Calcutta International Exhibition in 1884.

Turning to the pictures which commence at the foot of the principal staircase and lead throughout the upper halls there are to be found the originals of many great artists of the continent of Europe.

Among these are Sir Charles D'Oyly's massive "Orpheus—origin of love" and "Orpheus—origin of music", Sir Joshua Reynold's "Infant Hercules strangling the serpent", W. Stuart's "Battle of Trafalgar" and "The Spanish Armada", "Madonna and Child" by Sassa Ferrato, "Christ flying to Egypt" by Pante Jacopoda, "Christ and Magdalene" by Carraci, "The King of Prussia

causing the papers of Voltaire to be seized" by Geslin, "Cattle Piece" by Gainsborough, "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian", "Return of Ulysis to Penelope" by Pinturicchio, "Apollo flaying Marsyas alive" after Rubens and "Marriage of St. Catherine" by Rubens.

Chinping, the famous Chinese artist, Indian artists and a host of dead members of the Italian, Flemish and Dutch schools are well represented. Mention has been made of but a few of these masterpieces, but this give a sufficient indication of the wealth of art this palace contains. Mr. Kumar Nogendro Mullick is not unnaturally extremely proud of this valuable collection, and it now only remains for the great art-enamoured public to add further renown to what undoubtedly is the finest gallery of its kind in the city.

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*The "Statesman" of 27th March, Sunday, 1910. writes :—*

### A HIDDEN ART PALACE.

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VICEROY VISITS MULICK HOUSE IN CHOREBAGAN.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto visited last evening the magnificent palace

of the late Rajah Rajendro Mullick Bahadur,—the present residence of his grandsons Kumar Nogendro Mullick and his two brothers Kumars Brojendro Mullick and Ganendro Mullick,—at 20, Mukhtaram Babu's Street, Chorebagan.

The late Rajah Rajendro was a man of rare æsthetic taste and spent his princely fortune in furnishing his palace and making a unique collection of original paintings and statues by eminent artists of every country. The mansion is a veritable art treasure house. Its magnificent marble hall, the material of which was brought from every part of the world, is a remarkable specimen of Oriental architecture. It is surrounded by a high railing and the grounds are embellished with statues and adorned with aviaries of rare birds. The interior is decorated in lavish style, gilded ceilings, and the floors are of inland marble.

The first object that meets the eye in the west lawn are a life-size marble statue of Michael Angelo, a statue of Venus at the Bath, and a full-sized bronze figure of an English cow presented by Sir Elijah Impey. On the grand landing are Discobolus, Minerva, Bacchus, Demosthenes, Una on Lion etc. The collection in the north marble hall, ground floor, south, includ-

es a beautiful bust of Christ, busts of Napoleon and Wellington. Eastwards are statues of Psyche, Venus and Mercury. The visitors next come across among other figures, a beautiful marble bust of the Virgin Mary. In the north-west red marble bust of Her late Majesty which statue of the late Queen Victoria—with whom the late Rajah was a favourite—in her Coronation robes, and the marble bust of her late Majesty which received a gold medal at the Calcutta International Exhibition in 1884.

Turning to the pictures which commence at the foot of the principal staircase and throughout the upper halls, there are to be found the originals of many great European artists. Among these are Sir Charles D'Oyly's large "Orpheus—origin of love" and "Orphus—origin of music," Sir Joshua Reynold's "Infant Hercules strangling the serpent," W Stuart's "Battle of Trafalgar" and "The Spanish Armada", "Madonna and Child" by Ferrato, "Christ flying to Egypt" by Pante Jacopoda, "Christ and Magdalene" by Carraci, "The King of Prussia causing the papers of Voltaire to be seized" by Geslin, "Cattle Piece" by Gainsborough, "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian," "Return of Ulysis to Penelope" by Pinturicchio, "Apollo flaying Marsyas alive"

after Rubens and "Marriage of St. Catherine" by Rubens.

Chinhing, the famous Chinese artist and a host of dead members of the Italian, Flemish and Dutch Schools are well represented. Mention has been made of but a few of these masterpieces but these will give an indication of the wealth of art of this place, which has not inaptly been described as Calcutta's "Burlington House", contains.

Their Excellencies spent a couple of hours going round the various halls and corridors of the mansion and its twelve acres of ground, stocked with a galaxy of marble and bronze statues classical, mythical and heraldic. Their Excellencies were immensely delighted with what they saw and before leaving congratulated Kumar Nogendro Mullick on being the proud possessor of this valuable collection—which the Viceroy pronounced to be truly a most wonderful one."

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*In the Jame-e-Jamshed, dated January, 2nd, 1914, the widely circulated Gujarati daily Paper of Bombay, the following interesting description of the Marble Palace of Calcutta is given by Mr. Rustom Siodia.*

It is found expedient for the benefit of those lovers of art in Bombay, the art students and especially the tourists who pay a visit to a large and prominent city like Calcutta, to give in these columns some account of the magnificent art treasure lying hidden in that city, which is veritably named by eminent writers as "Burlington House of Calcutta" that they may all seize the opportunity of seeing for themselves what a wealth of art it is.

This unique collection of oil-paintings, statues, etc. can be seen in the palatial mansion of Kumar Nogendro Mullick, which is in itself a remarkable specimen of architectural grandeur. Baboo Mullick is the scion of a distinguished family of artists and has inherited his admirable taste for art. The present collection includes pictures, statues, furniture, etc., which has been gathered together since the last three generations in which can be seen the copies of the masterpieces by the Old Masters and superb specimens



of fine English and Italian art. Kumar Mullick is not unnaturally greatly proud of possessing such a rich collection. And who would not covet to possess same ? This valuable collection which is a private property, is of the first type that has ever been opened for the benefit of the people and are the welcome who care to visit the palace.

It is just like, in the words of a writer, "A thing of beauty and joy for ever" which experienced not only by the owner but by the public who pay a visit to the same.

The first Rajah Rajendro Mullick who was the grandfather of the present owner was greatly esteemed and honoured by every section of the community, both European and Indian and his late son, Kumar Debendro Mullick was also a distinguished artist and who was the father of the present owner. It may rightly be said that if all European and Indian tourists, on passing on their way through Calcutta, go away without seeing this art-treasure, have verily missed one of the greatest sights of Calcutta. No pains or expense has been spared by Kumar Mullick to keep the collection in an excellent style and condition and the arrangement is so nice and regular that the same may be compared with

that which is in vogue in the art galleries in Europe ; the Oil-paintings and statues are marked with numbers and illustrated catalogues are issued to the visitors.

As stated above, this collection is somewhat rightly called "Burlington House" which contains the wealth of art just like Royal Academy and it is why the Royal Academy is often called "Burlington House". The artists have to enrich the Academy, which is in fact, an institute for teaching the high class art and this name cannot therefore be appropriately applied to the Marble Palace. But for my own part I would call this collection as Wallace Collection of Calcutta and which is quite suitable. Wallace collection is also a private property of a wealthy gentleman in London, the doors of which are never closed to the public just as Marble Palace is never closed to any who cares to see it.

During the time when Mr. Havel was the Principal of the Calcutta School of Arts the tendency of the school was rather changed towards the acquisition of Indian art. A good collection of this school which consisted of copies of Old Masters as well the originals of the modern artists which I had seen about 7 or 8

years ago while in Calcutta, was offered for public sale. Kumar Mullick soon recognised the value of some splendid works out of this sale and bought them to enrich further his already valuable collection. Mr. Havel then utilized the sale proceeds towards buying Indian Drawings with which he embellished the walls of the school as well of the Museum which can still be found there. Kumar Mullick himself being a good artist is in a unique position to appreciate the value of excellent work and no better proof of his æsthetic taste is needed than his own beautiful collection. A critic has quite justly written "Those who think that Hindus have no taste for art will soon see their mistake on a visit to the late Raja Rajendro Mullick's art gallery which is, without exaggeration, one of the best galleries that can be seen in India". But we can go a step further in saying that Mullick's Gallery is without exaggeration the best that can be seen in India, as far as private collections go and which are open to public.

A large number of Europeans, Parsees and Bengalis were invited by Kumar Nogendro Mullick to attend a party given in honour of his son's marriage when the art gallery was so nicely and tastefully arranged and so lavishly decorated

that the guests were lost in amazement at the artistic wealth and splendour of this magnificent palace and began to bestow praises after praises on the taste, skill, ingenuity and love for art of the collector of this richest art-collection. The fame of this Palace and art treasure it contains should be spread throughout India but it is known merely to the public of Calcutta.

A correspondent writes in the Amrit Bazar Patrika "We have no large knowledge of the interiors of the palaces of Indian Princes or of the mansions of the English noblemen but we believe there are very few houses in England or in America that can compare favourably with one that we will try to describe in a few words.

The architecture of this palatial mansion, in which this collection is gathered is majestic and sublime. The floor is paved with marble tiles as well as the walls are decorated with marble panels and the ceiling magnificently gilded.

Statues, statuettes busts, Greek antique statues of various descriptions embellish the palace which include, Discobolus, Dancing Fawn, Venus de' Medici, Three graces, Venus and Adonis as well as Mercury by John Maxman, R. A. the famous English Sculptor, which are all designs of grand beauty.

We also find Canova's Venus and full size figure of an English Cow presented by Sir Elijan Impey, the Chief Justice of Bengal and in addition to which there can be seen 146 other statues but among them all the most attractive and commanding statue is that of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria's.

There are about 438 Oil-paintings which cannot all be taken as fine specimens of art. There are certain works by Bengali artists which are at the very first glance disappointing. The picture which particularly drew my attention was by Mr. T. C. Gotch, the famous exhibitor of the Royal Academy, representing the scene of his own studio. This is one of the most attractive pictures in Mr. Mullick's collection.

The portrait of Lord Mayo by Mr. D. Garricks is a total failure in the art of portraiture, and is an example of the class of artists who come from Europe to seek work in India.

Among the admirable works of famous artists can be found "Sheep" by George Morland R. A. "Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vicini the original of which is from 30 to 40 feet and which can be seen at the Royal Academy whereas the copy of same at the Marble Palace is of a very small size. There are other excellent works

such as "Worship of Bacchus" by Nicolas Poussein, the French artist, Card Player and the First Pipe by Vander Velde, Battle of Trafalgar by William Stuart, Appollo Flaying Marsyas alive and Marriage of St. Catherine, Descent from the Cross by Rubens, Christ and "Madona" after Careachi, "Battle Piece" after David Wilsen, R. A. "Madona and infant Christ" and Madona da la Sedia" after Raphæl ; "Cattle Piece" after Thomas Gainborough R. A. ; Strawberry Girl and Venus and Cupid"; "Hercules playing with Serpent" after Sir Joshua Reynolds P. R. A. "Portrait of Rubens after Vandyke and Drinking beer" Vandyke, Spring after G. F. Watts R. A. "Market Day" after Thomas Gainborough, R. A.

From the artistic point of view no other pictures are of greater interest and beauty than those mentioned above but, of course, the rest cannot fail to arouse the interest of and please the public. Except Mr. Gotch's picture no other picture can be placed on a level with the European art. Also except a few best statues the several others cannot be compared with European galleries but as few people can appreciate and understand the real beauty of artistic works in India this collection, under the circumstances, is a source of pride to our country. At the same

time our country can well be proud of such an owner of collections who has at heart the welfare of the public. It is easy to recognise the enthusiasm, and ardent love for art in a single gentleman who has neither spared pains nor money to gather such a large and beautiful collection.

Though our city of Bombay is so rich and though there are several wealthy persons as its inhabitants there does not exist a single museum or an art gallery of the like nature open to the public. There, however, is a collection of pictures owned by Sir Dorabjee Tata which, being not open to public, very few people can have the opportunity of witnessing same. These are unquestionably rare pictures which, in point of excellence, are on a par with European art pictures and surpasses the collection at the Marble Palace. Mr. Ruttonjee Tata also has a collection of a very superior kind which unfortunately the people of India have no chance of witnessing as it is in York House, England.

There is no doubt, that those who have once visited these two Tata brothers' collection will not find Mullick Baboos' collection superior in any degree but as it is the only collection in Calcutta open to the public the visitors have

little or no opportunity to compare them with others and it is therefore natural under the circumstances that it should be regarded as the best one.

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A short sketch of Rajah Rajendro Mullick



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